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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/557,172	04/21/2000	Yasuhiko Terashita	SONY-T0474	6517

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
 1940 DUKE STREET
 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

FLETCHER, JAMES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/557,172

Applicant(s)

TERASHITA ET AL.

Examiner

James A. Fletcher

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Please include the new Art Unit 2616 in the caption or heading of any written or facsimile communication submitted after this Office Action, because the examiner who was assigned to Art Unit 2615, has been assigned to new Art Unit 2616. Your cooperation in this matter will assist in the timely processing of the submission and is appreciated by the Office.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 and 3-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wactlar (5,838,667).

Regarding claims 1 and 5-8, Wactlar discloses an information processing apparatus, method, and program comprising:

- first recording and reproducing means, method, and program for recording one moving picture in at least one recording increment (Col 7, lines 1-3 "Once the digital library is created...it may be stored in any conventional storage media");

- second recording and reproducing means, method, and program for recording a still picture corresponding to a predetermined one of the recording increments of the moving picture (Col 11, lines 66-67 "Each paragraph may be reasonably abstracted by a 'representative frame'"); and
- third recording and reproducing means, method, and program for recording information about the moving picture being recorded by the first recording means (Col 7, lines 22-25 The digital video library system 10 must annotate digital video automatically by speech and language understanding, as well as by using other textual data that has been associated with the video")
- said information comprising at least one parameter corresponding to at least one of date of creation, date of modification, input information (Fig. A-1 shows "Inventor of Communication Satellites, Arthur C. Clark," which is also shown as being the interviewee, and the source of the information in the video clip), current status (Col 7, line 42 "time stamping function"), expiration date, and safeguard against inadvertent erasure.

The examiner notes that although the above limitation cites "one of," he has provided more than one disclosure of such parameters in the reference. In addition, there are several suggestions of other obvious parameters being included in the search algorithms.

Regarding claim 3, Wactlar discloses an information processing apparatus wherein the first recording means uses a file as the recording increment (Col 16, lines 3-4 "There is a digital video/audio archive 82 with a hierarchically cached file system").

Regarding claim 4, Wactlar discloses an information processing apparatus wherein the first recording means records the one moving picture to at least one storage medium (Col 7, lines 1-3 "Once the digital library is created...it may be stored in any conventional storage media").

Regarding claims 9-12, Wactlar discloses an information managing method and program comprising:

- recording and reproducing firstly a still picture corresponding to a moving picture in at least one recording increment (Fig 2, item 35 "Icon Creation and Col 13, lines 56-58 "visual icons are preferably a representative of a video paragraph or multiple contiguous video paragraphs relating to the same subject matter"); and
- recording and reproducing secondly information about the still picture being recorded in the first recording step (Col 17, lines 49-51 "Appearing on the screen are several icons...followed by text forming an extended title/abstracts of the information contained in the video." The examiner interprets this reproduction of title/abstract information associated with the icon as having been recorded prior to reproduction.)
- said information comprising at least one parameter corresponding to at least one of date of creation, date of modification, input information (Fig. A-1 shows "Inventor of Communication Satellites, Arthur C. Clark," which is also shown as being the interviewee, and the source of the information in the video clip),

current status (Col 7, line 42 "time stamping function"), expiration date, and safeguard against inadvertent erasure;

- wherein the still pictures are used as icons in a system configured to navigate the moving picture (Fig 2, item 35 "Icon creation" and Col 13, lines 53-55 "Icons are a combination of text and video, either still or motion, which are created for subsequent presentation to the user performing a search").

Regarding claims 13-15, Wactlar discloses an information managing apparatus, method, and program comprising:

- first recording means for recording a moving picture (Col 5, line 5, "a large, on-line, digital, video library" and Col 16, lines 3-4 "a digital video/audio archive 82 with a hierarchically cached file system");
- second recording means for recording data corresponding to the moving picture (Col 16, lines 6-7 "caches of most recently accessed media at the 'site-server' nodes 88, 90, 92"), said information comprising at least one parameter corresponding to at least one of date of creation, date of modification, input information (Fig. A-1 shows "Inventor of Communication Satellites, Arthur C. Clark," which is also shown as being the interviewee, and the source of the information in the video clip), current status (Col 7, line 42 "time stamping function"), expiration date, and safeguard against inadvertent erasure; and
- third recording means for recording data corresponding to the moving picture (Col 6, lines 62-63 "The video segments 48 may be viewed at the workstation

42 and selectively stored for future use”), said information comprising at least one parameter corresponding to at least one of date of creation, date of modification, input information (Fig. A-1 shows “Inventor of Communication Satellites, Arthur C. Clark,” which is also shown as being the interviewee, and the source of the information in the video clip), current status (Col 7, line 42 “time stamping function”), expiration date, and safeguard against inadvertent erasure.

5. Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Misawa et al (5,444,482).

Regarding claims 16-18, Misawa et al disclose an information processing apparatus, method, and program for recording file designation information designating a moving picture recorded on an external storage medium, and still picture information corresponding to the moving picture (Col 2, lines 45-49 “digital camera 1 is adapted to be operative in response to a manipulation of an operator to selectively record in optical disk 25 image data representing a still image of an object and consecutive images of the object in the form of movie pictures”).

6. Claims 19-22, 19/23, 20/23, 24/24, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Riek et al (5,987,179).

Regarding claims 19, 21, and 22, Riek et al disclose an information processing apparatus, method, and program comprising reproducing means for retrieving file designation information and still picture information (Col 11, lines 9-11 “The standard MPEG decoder has to be modified to recognize the situation when a high-fidelity image

has been encoded in the bitstream”), the file designation information designating a moving picture (Col 3, lines 48-50 “a frame in an uncompressed digital video signal is selected for encoding as a high-fidelity still image) recorded on an external storage medium (Col 4, lines 31-33 “The storage device can be, for example, a digital cassette recorder [DVC], a digital versatile disc [DVD], a memory card, or a magnetic hard drive”), the still picture information corresponding to the moving picture (Col 3, lines 50-52 “The digital video signal is MPEG encoded to produce an MPEG encoded bitstream and additional bits are employed to encode the selected frame”).

Regarding claim 20, Riek et al disclose an information processing apparatus comprising moving picture reproducing means for retrieving a moving picture from the external storage medium in accordance with an output from the reproducing means (Col 4, lines 26-29 “The camera 10 may include a display device 24, such as a color LCD display screen for reviewing the captured motion sequences and still images embedded in the sequences”).

Regarding claims 19/23, 20/23, 24/24, and 22-25, Riek et al disclose an information processing apparatus, managing method, and medium, wherein the external storage medium is a video tape (Col 4, lines 31-33 “The storage device can be, for example, a digital cassette recorder [DVC], a digital versatile disc [DVD], a memory card, or a magnetic hard drive”).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wactlar.

Regarding claim 2, Wactlar suggests an information processing apparatus wherein the second recording means records a still picture corresponding to a scene switchover of the moving picture (Col 3, lines 35-38 "a one-half hour video may easily have one hundred semantically separate chunks. The chunks may be linguistic or visual in nature. They may range from sentences to paragraphs and from images to scenes" and Col 4, lines 58-59 "means for segmenting the digitized video data into paragraphs according to the stored set of rules").

The examiner takes official notice that a scene change is a notoriously well-known and widely used definition of a "semantically separate chunk" of a moving picture presentation.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wactlar to include a scene change as a rule for creating a paragraph of video data.

9. Claims 16/23, 17/24, and 18/25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Misawa as applied to claims above, and further in view of Riek et al.

Regarding claims 16/23, 17/24, and 18/25, Misawa et al disclose an information managing apparatus, method, and program wherein the external storage medium is an optical disc, and do not disclose the use of a video tape for their storage medium.

Riek teaches an equivalence between optical discs and video tapes for use in a movie and still image recorder/reproducer (Col 4, lines 31-33 "The storage device can be, for example, a digital cassette recorder [DVC], a digital versatile disc [DVD], a memory card, or a magnetic hard drive").

As taught by Riek, video tapes are a well-known, commercially available, and widely used medium for the storage of both moving and still images, providing inexpensive, reliable, non-volatile storage of a variety of image data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Misawa in order to include video tape as a storage medium.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Fletcher whose telephone number is (571) 272-7377. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:45AM - 5:45PM M-Th, first Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached at (571) 272-7375.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only).

Art Unit: 2616

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

JAF
March 7, 2005



ANDREW FAILE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600